

Joint Reserve Component Teen Leadership Summit 2011 Information and Guidelines

History

This is the first Joint Reserve Component Teen Leadership Summit. It is modeled after the Air Force Reserve (AFR)/Air National Guard (ANG) Teen Leadership Summit that was first held 14-18 July 2008 at Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega, GA. Bringing together Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard teens for the first nationwide meeting proved a great success. The Summit focused on fostering leadership skills and self confidence, developing an awareness of programs and services available to military dependents, and building an appreciation of and sense of belonging to the Air Force community. To satisfy teens' intrinsic need to test boundaries and push limits, high adventure activities were included such as rock climbing, ropes course and white water rafting. The Summit concluded with a teen created and led presentation to Air Force Reserve leadership on their top issues as Air Force dependents. All costs to include airfare, camp fees, food, activity fees and ground transportation to/from the camp were covered in full by the Air Force. With the overwhelming success of the Air Force Reserve / Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summit, the Office of Secretary of Defense – Military Community and Family Policy funded the first ever gathering of Reserve Component Teens across five of the uniformed services.

Joint Reserve Teen Leadership Summit – 10-15 July 2011

Wahsega 4-H Center: Dahlonega, Georgia

Nestled in a valley of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Wahsega 4-H Center plays host to the Joint Reserve Teen Leadership Summit. During this week long adventure, teens will participate in high adventure activities such as high ropes, zip line canopy tour, white-water rafting, hiking, fishing, archery, survival classes, and more! Leadership classes taught throughout the week include True Colors and the General Hugh H. Shelton Leadership Challenge. Attendees are introduced to Operation: Military Kids (OMK) and will meet the community partners who make-up OMK teams such as 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, American Legion, Military OneSource and the Military Child Education Coalition. This Summit also includes military traditions and community service projects. Attendees will be made up from the reserve and guard of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

For more information, please contact Casey Mull (jtfcamp@uga.edu, 706-542-4444), Brandi Mullins (478-327-2090) or Kasey Bozeman (478-327-2110).

Camp Costs

Airfare, transportation while at the Summit, camp registration fees, meals, and lodging are covered by grant funding from the Extension-Military Partnership through funding from the Office of Secretary of Defense-Military Community and Family Policy and National Institute of Food and Agriculture/US Department of Agriculture.. Parents will be responsible for getting their teen to/from the airport, any baggage fees, spending money for snacks/souvenirs, and meals during airline travel.

Eligibility

The Joint Reserve Component Teen Leadership Summits are open to 14-18 year old dependent teens of **current** military members serving in: Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve or Coast Guard Reserve. Applicants will be required to complete entire application, including the essay questions. By submitting the application, both the teen and the parent/legal guardian attest that all information is truthful and accurate. In addition, they have read and understand the Teen Summit Information & Guidelines. Due to the nature of the activities and logistics involved, teens must be willing and physically capable of participating in all camp activities. In addition, all applicants must be physically and mentally capable of navigating an airport as we cannot predict airline delays or guarantee direct flights.

Application Process

Eligible teens can access the application on the website (www.georgia4h.org/jointreservesummit) beginning on 1-April. Teens are required to complete basic contact/travel information and submit essays from a topic list. All applications received by 20 May will be considered. Teens will be able to log in and check their participation status (accepted or wait-listed) which will be determined NLT 27 May.

Selection

Applicants will be selected considering the following factors:

- Geographic location - One goal of the teen summit is to encourage representation from all 50 states. Multiple attendees from the same state will be minimized whenever possible.
- Gender - Equal representation of males and females is ideal. A disproportionate number of either gender may not be possible due to lodging accommodations.
- Age - It is important to get representation of both younger and older teens to ensure all issues are captured and addressed. A variety of ages also contributes to the success of the activities and classes provided.
- Sponsor - Representation from dependents of all ranks of enlisted service members and officers ensures a variety of experiences and view points are brought to the Summit.
- Branch of Service - All efforts will be made to ensure all reserve component dependents have equal opportunity to attend a Teen Summit.
- Essay - Each application must contain two short answer essay questions to be written by the applicant. The essays must be completed for consideration to attend any Teen Summit.

A selection committee will be established to review and rank the applications based on the above factors. Applications will be sorted in the following priority order: state of residence, gender, age, sponsor and branch of service. Essays will then be evaluated for each group to determine final selections. The following factors will be considered when reviewing essays: moral character, commitment to service, personal responsibility, and originality. Any teen submitting incomplete applications will not be considered for attendance to any Summit.

Accepting Applicants

Upon notification of selection, parents will be required to accept or decline their teen's slot and return the code of conduct, transportation agreement, medical information, and adventure waivers no later than 3 June. Available slots for the Joint Reserve Component Teen Leadership Summit will be filled as described above. A waiting list will be created based on the rankings of applications. Any declined camp slot will be filled starting at the top of the waiting list and working down until the established cutoff date. This will allow sufficient time for securing travel arrangements and completing all forms.

Note: Once a teen's attendance has been confirmed and travel arrangements have been made, parents will be responsible for reimbursement to the University of Georgia for changes to airline tickets and/or cancellations.